

A QUICK GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING WHETHER MALACHI 3:8-10 APPLIES TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

by Gary J. Arnold

Malachi 3:8-10 (KJV)

⁸Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

⁹Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.

¹⁰Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

These verses are quoted in thousands of churches every week. But do they apply to the New Testament Church?

God said he was robbed of “tithes and offerings.” Since there are many commands for tithes and offerings in the scriptures, we need to know exactly which tithes and offerings are being referred to. In verse 10 the storehouse is mentioned.

The only tithe in the scriptures that God claimed to be His, and where the tithe or a portion of that tithe went to the storehouse, is the tithe quoted in Leviticus 27:30-34. The Levitical tithe belonged to God, and He gave that tithe to the Levites who were commanded to take a tithe of the tithe to the priests for an offering to the Lord. See Nehemiah 13:10 and Numbers 18:25-28.

We really need to start with verse 7 to get the answer:

Malachi 3:7 (KJV)

⁷Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

God says “ye are gone away from mine ordinances...” The word “ordinances” means commandments, or laws. In other words, God said they were not obeying his commands, or laws.

If you believe the Mosaic law ended at the cross, then Malachi 3:8-10 can’t apply. It is referring to the law, specifically the Levitical tithe which was a part of the Mosaic law.

Therefore, Christians who believe the Old Testament laws ended at the cross cannot interpret Malachi 3:8-10 to apply to the Christian Church today. Malachi 3:8-10 applied only to those under the Levitical priesthood.

For an in-depth study of the tithe, go to my website at:

www.TithingToday.com